General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 67 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 23 December 2013

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.34)*]

68/237. Proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, by which it decided to convene the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and its resolutions 56/266 of 27 March 2002, 57/195 of 18 December 2002, 58/160 of 22 December 2003, 59/177 of 20 December 2004 and 60/144 of 16 December 2005, which guided the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,[1]

Reiterating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races,

Acknowledging the efforts and initiatives undertaken by States to prohibit discrimination and segregation and to engender the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural as well as civil and political rights,

Emphasizing that, despite efforts in this regard, millions of human beings continue to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary manifestations, some of which take violent forms,

Emphasizing also its resolution 64/169 of 18 December 2009, by which it proclaimed 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent,

Recalling its resolutions 3057 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973, 38/14 of 22 November 1983 and 48/91 of 20 December 1993, by which it proclaimed the three Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and conscious of the fact that their objectives are yet to be attained,

[1] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

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Underlining its resolution 67/155 of 20 December 2012, by which it requested the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations programmes and organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to launch an informal consultative preparatory process for the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development", with a view to proclaiming the International Decade in 2013,

Recalling paragraph 61 of its resolution 66/144 of 19 December 2011, by which it encouraged the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to develop a programme of action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, and in this regard taking note of Council resolution 21/33 of 28 September 2012,[2] in which the Council welcomed the draft programme of action for the Decade for People of African Descent[3] and decided to transmit it to the General Assembly with a view to its adoption,

Taking note with appreciation of the work undertaken by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent in producing a draft programme of action that is comprehensive and covers a wide range of areas that could serve as a broad framework for the programme of action for the International Decade for People of African Descent, and the report of the Secretary-General on how to make the International Decade effective,[4]

1. *Proclaims* the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development", to be officially launched immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, through the facilitator, to continue consultations with States members of the General Assembly and other stakeholders, with a view to elaborating a programme for the implementation of the International Decade, with a draft programme developed by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as its basis, to be finalized and adopted during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly and not later than 30 June 2014;

3. *Calls for* the allocation of predictable funding from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations for the effective implementation of the programme of action and activities under the International Decade.

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[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/53/Add.1), chap. II.

[3] A/HRC/21/60/Add.2.

[4] A/67/879.